

[Dr. J. H. Hutton]

[?] [III - F - 2 - b?] IV - C -2 a,b,c,d S260 Dup

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2214 Lake St.

DATE January 20, 1939 SUBJECT Negro History

1. Name and address of informant Dr. J. H. Hutton - 2425 N. 24 St.
2. Date and time of interview January 19, 1939 10 to 1:30
3. Place of interview In the office of Dr. Hutton
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant No one.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you.

No one.
6. Description of room, house, surrounding, etc.

Dr. Hutton has a very good location in the heart of the Negro district and his office although not elaborately furnished is up to date. He has ample space for himself and a young doctor who has recently not up his office and is taking over a lot of his work.

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FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2213 Lake St.

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DATE January 20, 1939 SUBJECT Negro History

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Dr. J. H. Hutton 2425 N. 24 St.

1. Ancestry Dr. Hutton is of Negro ancestry.

2. Place and date of birth Dr. Hutton was born in Newbury S.C. about 1875.

3. Family Dr. Hutton is divorced from one wife and a widower from his second wife. His first wife is yet living and they have a son Jesse.

4. Place lived in, with dates. Dr. Hutton has lived in Omaha for the past 38 years. Prior to living in Omaha he lived in Washington D. C., Charlotte S.C., and Augusta Georgia.

5. Education, with dates Howard University—1899

Biddle high School—1891

Presbyterian " —1887

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

Dr. Hutton is the oldest Negro doctor in Omaha, having practiced here since 1900.

7. Special skills and interests

Dr. Hutton is very interested in travelling and usually takes a trip to the west coast every summer. He has visited nearly every principal city.

8. Community and religious activities

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Dr. Hutton takes quite an interest in community life and has served on various committees and boards. He was on the board of the first Urban League, and was instrumental in the organization of the League.

9. Description of informant. Dr. Hutton is tall, light brown-skinned, very thin, and he talks very slowly. He is very intelligent and can converse on most any subject. He is very precise and usually feel that he is right on most everything.

10. Other points gained in interview. I learned more of Dr. Hutton's feelings against his fellow men, and that he feels that the race as a whole has not done all that it should. He seems bitter that so many of his colleagues have misused their office and have betrayed their clientage.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Fred D. Dixon ADDRESS 2213 Lake St.

DATE January 20, 1939 SUBJECT Negro History

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Dr. J. H. Hutton 2425 N. 24 St.

I first came to Omaha in 1900 after serving my years [in[er]sh?]ip?] in Washington D. C. in the hospital provided at that time by the government for Negro students. My first [acquaintance?] in Omaha was with Mrs. Stephenson, widow of Dr. Stephenson, who had died shortly before I came here and they buried on the day that I arrived. I rented his office space at 13th and Howard st., and started into business. Mrs. Stephenson did my cooking, as I boarded with her for quite a while. During this time I was able to learn a little of Dr. Stephenson and a little of his business. He did not turn down any Negro business, but preferred the white trade as it was more profitable. He was an asset to the Negro race as he was contributing something to the race as a whole.

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Dr. M. O. Richetts had practiced medicine 18 years prior to my arrival in Omaha, and remained here only three years after I came. He moved to St. Joseph Missouri and continued in his work. He like-wise had served two terms in the legislature and had been instrumental in securing several nice positions for a number of Negroes. At the time of my coming to Omaha in 1900 there were 4500 Negroes in Omaha and they had a larger share of good positions than they do now. Dr. Richetts was instrumental in securing the first Negro fire-department, the first Negro Weights and Measures inspector, Negroes in both the city and county offices as clerks and stenographers, and very helpful in securing the first Negro teachers in the Omaha public schools. He was a very active politician and usually secured what he set out to get.

There were several other pioneer Negro doctors that practiced in Omaha and must be mentioned although they were not an asset to the race. Dr. Riddle who tried to operate a hospital in Omaha for Negroes. This hospital was first located at 16th and Cuming st. As it was too far away from the Negroes they moved it later to 24th and Patrick Ave. This hospital was very inadequate and if it had been of a later date they could not have operated it as it would be against the health laws of the state and the Medical association. Associated with Dr. Riddle in his hospital venture was a Dr. Madison who like Dr. Riddle was convicted on a Dope charge and deprived of his license to practice medicine. Neither were an asset to the Negro race.

There were several other Negro doctors in Omaha at the time that tried to run [afou?] afoul of the law and were convicted. Dr. Hill was convicted of wrongfully using dope and his license was revoked. Associated with Dr. Hill at the time was a Dr. Britt who is yet living in Omaha, and who had a very good following. Dr. Britt was indicted but later reinstated. He lost most of his clients and at the present time he is a disgrace to the medical profession, due to his excessive drinking.

There has been several Negroes that are an asset to the race and have contributed something worthwhile to the race as a whole. Perhaps the best known is Dr. Aaron

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McMillian, who served a term in the legislature and who is at the present time doing missionary work in Africa and still maintains his home in Omaha. He has two sons attending Howard Kennedy grade school. Another Negro that was with their early group was Dr. 3 Foster who had a lot of promise as a doctor. He is now living in Los Angeles and has a very good practice.

Among the other doctors of the city that are practicing at the present time are: Dr. Herbert Wiggins, who is on the board of the Urban League, Dr. Wesley Jones, who is president of the N.A.A.C.P. a national Negro organization, Dr. D. [?] Gooden, Dr. Price Terrell, Dr. Weldon [Selmon?], who is on the city payroll as a city health physician, and is the youngest of the Negro doctors, Dr. G. B. Lennox, Dr. A. L. Hawkins, Dr. S. B. Northcross, and Dr. L. Britt.

I married in Omaha in 1901 to my first wife and we have a son Jesse, who is employed in the city hall as a surveyor. Mrs. Hutton is a case-worker employed by the Family Welfare Association. I married again but my second wife is dead. Prior to my coming to Omaha I had taught school in various places in the south while I was securing enough money to go to school. I feel proud that I have secured enough to retire any time that I feel like doing so and I plan to do so in the near future.

COMMENTS: Dr. Hutton is one of the wealthiest Negroes in the city and owns considerable Real Estate.